

of movement by using effective border controls and secure travel documents, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons, including weapons of mass destruction. Each of us must act to share information to prevent a terrorist attacks before they happen. The United States will continue to work with and through the Security Council to help all nations meet these commitments.

The United States also reaffirms its commitment to support the prevention of unjust armed conflict, particularly in Africa, which is why we have joined Algeria, Benin, and Tanzania in cosponsoring today's second important resolution. We support the need to improve the ability of the African Union and subregional organizations to deploy both civilian and military assets to prevent such conflicts. Over the next 5 years, the United States will provide training for more than 40,000 African

peacekeepers as part of a broader initiative by the G-8 countries. We will help train African forces to preserve justice and order in Africa.

Terrorism and armed conflict are not only threats to our security; they're the enemies of development and freedom for millions. To help ensure the 21st century is one of freedom, security, and prosperity—I want to thank the members of the Security Council for supporting today's resolutions.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the Security Council Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines, in her capacity as President to the U.N. Security Council; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations in New York City *September 14, 2005*

Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished members of the United Nations community, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, our country is honored to welcome you to New York. I'm pleased to be with you at the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly, this year under the leadership of President Eliasson of Sweden.

We meet at a time of tragedy for this country, when citizens along our gulf coast are recovering from Hurricane Katrina. I just want you to know that Americans take comfort in knowing that we're not alone. I can't thank you enough for the outpouring of international support for our brothers and sisters who hurt. This international good will and outpouring of support reminds us there is no challenge we cannot overcome when the nations of the world unite in common.

That was the vision of the founders of the United Nations six decades ago. Our challenge is to extend this vision into the 21st century, and we need a strong United Nations to do so. The United States appreciates the commitment of Secretary-General Annan and the General Assembly and members of member states to reform the U.N. We have made a solid start. More work remains.

Our ongoing efforts together will be crucial to enable the United Nations to fulfill the promises made 60 years ago.

Mr. Secretary-General, on this important anniversary I offer a toast to you and to the United Nations: May the U.N. embody the high ideals of its founding in the years to come.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:39 p.m. in the North Delegates Lounge at the United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he re-

ferred to Jan Eliasson, President of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Remarks at the National Dinner Celebrating 350 Years of Jewish Life in America

September 14, 2005

Thank you all very much. Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks for the invitation to be here. My only regret is Laura is not with me. I left her behind to do some diplomacy in New York City. *[Laughter]*

Bob, I want to thank you for your kind introduction. I'm honored to accept this medal commemorating three-and-a-half centuries of Jewish life in America. I consider it a high honor to have been invited to celebrate with you.

Back in 1790, the Jewish congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, wrote to congratulate George Washington on his election as the country's first President. Some say he was the first George W. *[Laughter]* In his reply, President Washington thanked the congregation and pledged to defend vigorously the principle of religious liberty for all. He declared—here's what he said. He said, the United States “gives bigotry no sanction; to persecution, no assistance.” And he expressed his hope that the “stock of Abraham” would thrive in America.

In the centuries that followed, the stock of Abraham has thrived here like nowhere else. We're better and stronger—and we're a better and stronger and freer nation because so many Jews from countries all over the world have chosen to become American citizens.

I want to thank Rabbi Gary Zola, who is the chairman of the Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History. I want to thank Ken Bialkin, who is the chairman of the board of the American Jewish Historical Society. I want to thank Members of Congress who

are here. I want to thank members of the diplomatic corps, especially the Ambassador from Israel, Danny Ayalon.

I want to thank two members of my Cabinet who've joined us, Secretary Alphonso Jackson of the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, and his wife, Marcia, and Josh Bolten, who is the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

I appreciate the Archivist of the United States, who has joined us today, Allen Weinstein; Dr. Jim Billington, who is the Librarian of Congress.

I can't help but notice and welcome Ed Koch, the former mayor of New York City. I want to thank my friend Fred Zeidman from Houston, Texas, who's the Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council—pay my respects to Lynn Schusterman, who's the president of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, and Sid Lapidus, who's the president of the American Jewish Historical Society.

This may sound a little odd for a Methodist from Texas saying this, but I just came from a shul. I was just given the grand tour of the great American landmark, the Sixth & I Historic Synagogue. I want to thank Shelton Zuckerman and Abe Pollin for taking it upon themselves to restore this important historical site. If you haven't been there, you ought to go. It is a—there's a wonderfully warm feeling. I saw the devotion that has gone into restoring this jewel, which was built nearly a century ago, a jewel that houses three Torah scrolls rescued from the Holocaust. We're proud to have this great synagogue in the heart of